

it is of the decided opinion that inoculation with pure vaccine and with absolute cleanliness and good sanitary surroundings is a harmless and innocent measure.

The following names were selected, from which the special Senatorial Committee of this district could be chosen, viz.: Chas. W. Nutting, Robt. T. Legge, C. E. Reed, R. F. Wallace, Fred Stabel, D. B. Fields, Chas. M. Tinsman and C. J. Teass.

Robt. T. Legge and L. A. Bauter were elected delegates and Drs. Cornish and Edgecomb alternates to the April meeting of the State Society. Officers for the ensuing year were then installed as follows: R. F. Wallace, President; R. E. Stevenson, Vice-President; Phil H. Weber, Secretary and Treasurer.

Dr. C. E. Reed read a very interesting paper on "Erysipelas Migrans," which was followed by a general discussion by all doctors present. The society then adjourned to April 20, 1907.

PHIL H. WEBER,
Secretary.

SOMNOS.

The manufacturers of Somnos have been claiming that their preparation is a definite "chemical product formed by the synthesis of chlorthanal with a polyatomic alcohol radical. Very few, if any, physicians who read this description realized that chlorthanal is another name for chloral and that a polyatomic alcohol radical, in this instance, meant glycerin. In The Journal of the American Medical Association for September 1, 1906, attention is called to the actual facts in regard to this preparation in a comment on the circular letter published by the H. K. Mulford Company. In the literature regarding the physiologic action of Somnos the H. K. Mulford Company claimed that it has no "depressive action on the heart or circulation and has no destructive influence on the red corpuscles of the blood, nor does it cause gastric disturbances by continued use." The literature also repeatedly said that it contained no chloral and that it was free from the bad effects of chloral.

The Council of Pharmacy and Chemistry, in The Journal A. M. A. for September 15, publishes a report of investigations that were made on mice, guinea-pigs and dogs for the purpose of proving or disproving the claims made for Somnos by its manufacturers. The result of the investigation showed that the physiologic action of Somnos is practically indistinguishable from that of a 5 per cent solution of chloral hydrate.

According to the reports, Somnos is no less toxic than chloral hydrate, and the depressing effects on the temperature, respiration and circulation are the same in each instance. The Council suggests that physicians who are in the habit of using Somnos should compare the results they obtain from it with a 5 per cent elixir of hydrate of chloral. In this way they can verify for themselves whether or not the Council's conclusions are correct, that a 5 per cent elixir of chloral glycerate (Somnos) has the same physiological and therapeutical action as a 5 per cent elixir of chloral hydrate.

THE BACTERIA IN SCARLATINAL AND NORMAL THROATS.

From a study of 154 throat cultures, 51 from normal throats, 75 from cases of scarlatina, 14 of measles, 5 of tonsillitis, 5 of pneumonia and 4 of pharyngitis, and fully describing his method and the results of the examination, G. F. Ruediger, Chicago (Journal A. M. A., October 13), sums up his findings in substance as follows: Streptococcus pyogenes is constantly and abundantly found on the tonsils in cases of tonsillitis and scarlatina before the subsidence of the inflammation in the throat.

The organisms rapidly decrease in numbers after subsidence of the throat inflammation. Streptococcus pyogenes can not be considered a normal resident of all healthy throats, though it was found in small numbers in 60 per cent. of the cases examined. Pneumococci of low virulence were found in 64 out of 71 throats. A large group of organisms lying between the typical Streptococcus pyogenes and pneumococcus were found in all normal throats and in nearly all diseased throats. They have very little virulence for rabbits, and as they are found in nearly all cases they may be considered as normal inhabitants of the throat. Streptococcus pyogenes from normal throats appears to have a slightly greater virulence than these organisms from scarlatinal throats.

PUBLICATIONS.

A Text-Book of Clinical Microscopy and Clinical Chemistry for Medical Students, Laboratory Workers and Practitioners of Medicine. By Charles Phillips Emerson, A. B., M. D., Resident Physician, The Johns Hopkins Hospital; Associate in Medicine, The Johns Hopkins University, Philadelphia and London, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1906.

The field of clinical pathology or clinical microscopy has been very fully covered by several excellent text-books in the last few years, and it would seem that further additions to the list were unnecessary. In presenting another book on this subject Dr. Emerson has recognized this fact, and as he states in his preface, has endeavored to cover the field from a new point of view; to present the subject from the clinical rather than the laboratory side. In this, we think, he has succeeded admirably. The work is based on the author's five years' experience as head of the clinical laboratory at the Johns Hopkins Hospital and he has had at his disposal and made good use of all of the valuable clinical records of this institution. In general the laboratory side of the work is presented much as in other works except that the old and poorer, and the new and untried tests are in general omitted, and only the reliable ones retained. In addition, in every chapter is a valuable and generally full discussion of the clinical side of the subject; a discussion that can not fail to be of advantage to students and to which the general practitioner can refer with the assurance of help.

The work opens with the subject of the sputum and the author makes a timely plea for more extended and careful examinations of the fresh sputum, both macroscopically and microscopically than are usually made. The chapter contains a good discussion of colored sputa and of the sputum in the various pulmonary affections. Following this some two hundred pages are devoted to the subject of the urine. This chapter is very satisfactory. It covers the chemical side in much the same manner as other books but contains here and there many useful hints. The newer urine tests such as cryoscopy, chloride excretion, the dilution test, methylene blue and phlorizin tests, etc., are grouped under the head of functional renal diagnosis and are fully discussed especially in their relation to surgical questions. Albuminuria and the urine in the various renal affections are fully considered from the clinical standpoint and must certainly be of great help to the student. We are sorry no mention is made of Denig's test for acetone, for we consider it just as simple and more delicate and satisfactory than the usual Gunning's or Lieben's tests.

The third chapter considers the stomach contents and in its general presentation of the subject and its discussion of the clinical laboratory side of the different gastric affections it is one of the best in

the book. We fail to find any mention of Sablis' desmoid test. Occult blood is preferably to be considered under the subject of faeces and not stomach contents, and should have been given a fuller discussion and the tests more adequately described.

The blood is very fully and satisfactorily presented in the fifth chapter. The details of the technic of obtaining specimens and counting the corpuscles are very carefully described and the usual faults of the beginner prominently mentioned. The anemias and the parasitic blood affections are given due prominence. We are glad to see that Brodie-Russell's instrument for the determination of the coagulation time is recommended; very few text-books mention it. In studying the colored plates that accompany this chapter it would be of assistance if a descriptive text were included with each.

The final chapter discusses the various body fluids not already considered and includes the subject of cytodagnosis which is adequately presented. Dr. Emerson finds it of rather limited value. The text is well illustrated with original drawings executed by the well-known Johns Hopkins artists, whose reputation is sufficient guarantee of the accuracy of their work. In general we have nothing but praise for the book and we agree with the opinion expressed by Dr. Osler in his introduction, that it will be found a comprehensive and trustworthy guide in all the details of laboratory work. H. W. A.

Practice of Pediatrics—In Original Contributions by American and English Authors. Edited by Walter Lester Carr, of New York.

This book is issued as an addition to Lea Brothers' Practitioner's Library, and is contributed to by a number of pediatricians; American and English, whose names are coming more and more to be recognized as carrying authority. The ideal book of pediatric practice would be one in which the physiological differences between adult and child were fully emphasized, and the pathology and symptomology due to such differences fully brought out; it would also be one in which the visual facts of general medicine to be found in ordinary text books would receive little more than mention and in which plates such as occur in pathologies or books on practice would not cumber the volume. Preferably, too, it would be from the individual point of view by one man and carry the garnered wisdom of much clinical experience, and it would avoid the overlapping that inevitably comes in the attempt by a number of men to write a system of pediatrics.

The book before us violates many of the premises laid down as ideal; and further, the reading of some of its sections leaves an impression that the writing was but an attempt to fulfill an uninteresting task. However, in spite of its drawbacks, which are but those inevitable to a book brought together in such a manner as this has been, there are a number of the sections that every practitioner should read. Southworth, than whom it would have been difficult to find an abler man, has written the section on Infant Feeding. One feels that the editor has hardly allotted sufficient space to this important subject. In a pediatric manual of about a thousand pages, less than one hundred are given to the dietetics of infancy, and while in that small space there is crowded an enormous amount of information luminously treated, one can not but regret that this important and much neglected subject should not have received greater space. It is to be regretted, too, that while Chapin's results are quoted and used as though they were, as they are, the basic facts upon the knowledge of which we depend for success in baby's feeding, Chapin has been given scant credit for his work.

Hart and Van Slyke's epoch-making researches into the chemistry of milk albumens have been fully

recognized and the revised views their discoveries have forced upon us are fully accepted. It is gratifying to see that the simple top-milk method of home modification is advised and that the laboratory modifications are more or less discouraged. Certainly any practitioner following the advice of this section should have no difficulty in feeding normal infants, and he will find the problem of feeding children of abnormal digestion a much less taxing one. Southworth also advises a much more liberal dietary during the second year than many writers do. One feels that those pediatric authorities who so strongly urge the importance of withholding other than milk food during the second year, have wrought incalculable harm to many children.

Occasionally in this book one meets with statements that must be errors of dictation, such as when it is advised in an otherwise admirable article on Marasmus that the child suffering from this condition should have a daily cool douche when undoubtedly the one essential thing is to protect a child whose temperature is already subnormal from further loss of heat.

To judge the value of any book on children's diseases, one naturally turns to the sections on the treatment of acute infections and especially to that on the treatment of diphtheria. So many authorities have put the dosage of antitoxin so low that there is in the minds of the profession at large a feeling that small doses of antitoxin given at intervals are as efficient as large initial doses. This is a vicious statement and it is with a great deal of satisfaction that one reads Nicoll's endorsement of McCollom's advocacy of massive initial doses. The dosage advised by the author is, for mild cases 2,000 to 4,000 units; in severe cases twice that dose; and cases involving the larynx, 10,000 units. As a matter of fact, it is rarely wise to give less than twelve thousand units in a laryngeal case, and this dose should be repeated within 24 hours.

Hardly sufficient stress is laid on the great difficulty of differentiating cases in which the streptococcal invasion of the throat complicates diphtheria from cases of true scarlatina. Certainly, in San Francisco such cases are not at all infrequent and are often puzzling.

There is in the volume under review, one classical section—that on diseases of the heart, by Poynton. If there is any one subject about which we have needed a master's dictum, it is this. In etiology and in clinical development, the cardiac diseases of childhood differ so widely from heart disease in adult life that even with considerable experience the practitioner may be led into errors of prognosis and management that will cause him much bitter regret. The subject of post-diphtheretic cardiac failure receives more thorough discussion than is usually the case. Proper stress is laid upon the great importance of skilled and experienced nursing. The symptomology is discussed very fully. It might, perhaps, have added to the value of the section had the advice to watch the heart in every case of diphtheria been made more imperative and had it been made clear that the character of the first sound almost from the beginning is an index of the waning strength of the myocardium and a warning of the imminent onset of its failure.

There is an extremely useful restraining harness figured, to be used to maintain quiet in the restless child. It is a matter of opinion whether the use of such a means of restraint is wiser than the method of giving sufficient opium to keep the child drowsy. Lee's prescription of atropin and strychnin is advised for these cases of failure; the reviewer has never felt strychnin to be of much use in such an event and he has certainly seen it do great harm by exalting the sensorium and increasing restlessness; but atropin is invaluable when the pulse is slowed.

A point well taken is that the diagnosis of functional disease of the heart in childhood is to be con-